### NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

# THE MASON AND SLIDELL AFFAIR.

The Effect of the Recent Enropean News on the President and Secretary Seward.

INTERESTING CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

Adoption of Mr. Sumner's Resolution Prohibiting the Surrender of Slaves by the Army.

The House Scheme of Confiscation and Colonization.

Passage of a Bill for the Payment of Gen. Fremont's Forces.

Homestead Bill Again Killed Off, &c.,

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1861. THE SLIDELL AND MASON AFFAIR AND THE NEWS

At eleven o'clock to-night neither the President no Secretary Seward had received any despatches from Engfand. The messengers reported to be on the way from Boston did not arrive. A report reached here this after meen that a ratiroad accident between Poston and New York detained them. If that is so, they may be here in

Very little excitement exists here in regard to the Ma son and Sielell affair. The President and Secretary of State are less disturbed about that question than many others near home. They believe it will be seen settled The Provident is as full of his mirth to-night as ever, and the Secretary of State puffs his Havana with the same gay and festive air as when he toured through the West.

At half post nine o'clock the President, with his Priwate Secretary, Mr. Hay, walked over to Mr. Seward's, and after consultation there, he and Mr. Seward walked to the resistance of Gen. McClellan, and remained there until midnight discussing the rebellion.

It is a fact that the government is not alarmed about the Mason and Slidell embreglio. From the numerous despatches that have been received here to-day, there is a fear expressed among the people in different parts of the country that the government may be induced by some diplomrey to give the traitors up. In order to dis this feeling, I will venture to asser Shot I have the highest authority for saying that the possibility of their surrender, under any circumstances. for not now coist. The President is firm and immovable on this point.

The English sewspaper sensation sent to the country in advance of the arrival of any official despatches, either from our Minister or the receipt of any communication by bur government from Lord Lyons, is considered of very fittle account here. The government have too much or Sheir hands to be disturbed by such influences. If it phould turn out that we are likely to have another tilt with Great Britain, it is quite likely that France that event Russin will intercede in behalf of the United States. If France, the Napoleonic Waterloo France, iv accented by England, Russia will be accepted by the United States. The Emperors of these great em neres can discuss the question while we are closing up the repollion they will eventually disagree of course. . A mediator will be called in, probably the King of Italy, who will not decide the matter satisfactorily to both parties, and a war may result. By that time we shall stion whether we shall not prefer to take a hand in rather than to remain at peace with a nemple who have attempted to take advantage of our misfortunes.

Despatches received here to-daystate that the rabols in ed by the Europa, indicating that England has assumed a hostile attitude towards the United States. They regard as an evidence of the intention of the quondam mis tress of the seas to take up their quarrel, open their ports, and fight their battle. They deceive themselves, as they have done from the beginning.

DEPARTURE OF SECRETARY CHASE FOR NEW YOR Secretary Chase left here yesterday afternoon for New York, in consequence of a despatch received by him about half so hour before the starting of the last train. The demand for his preschee was at a consultation of bank officers in relation to the financial affairs of the government. The Secretary commenced only last weak drawing upon the last fifty million subscription to the national leau, and has not yet drawn over ten per compf the amount.

COLONIZATION OF SLAVES.

The House Committee on Military Affairs have before them a report and bill on the consecution of property of rebels, and of employment and colonization of slaves, mad by the chairman, Colonel F. P. Blair, based upon the President's Mersige. It declares null and void all sales saignments and transfer of property of rebels and a interest therein, &c. It provides for the appointment of ners for the States, at stated places, who have power to take summary action on all cases of confiscation that all persons owing service to the rebels being taken by the Unite ! States forces, coming to and claiming their powers the President to acquire by purel se lands in for their colonization, &c., giving to each man forty acres and 10 each head of a family eighty acres and protection by the United States government; also that such persons shall be, under proper and humans supervision, employed and apprenticed on of their labor and the money paid over to the United States government in trust for them for their future Bransportation and for their subsistence in the meantime; also the le or of apprenticeship for those over twenty-or yours of age, five years; those under twenty-one years

to the Harsawith a bill upon which the members are unanimous. This saves a minority report, and will naturally produce a moral effect upon the House that will send to corry the bill through without successful oppo-

GENERAL PHELPS' PROCLAMATION DENOUNCED. A good deal of indignation is expressed that eneral Phelps, who was a Vermont Colonel in the three months' service, and stationed at Fortress Monroe should have so far forgotten his military duties Bato issue a political proclamation offer landing upon Bhip Island, in the Gulf of Mexico, to the byal citizens o the Southwest. The officers of the government, both civi and military-pro-slavery and anti-slavery, democrats and republicans—denounce the act as the most unwise and foolish act that has yet been proclaimed by any

GENERAL M'CLELLAN'S MOVEMENTS. General McClellan dashed over to the Virginia side of the Potomac to-day, without waiting for either staff offpers or escort. He passed over the Aqueduct bridge, and was quickly followed by the officers of the staff who were to attend him, among whom were Colonel Sweitzer, the Count de Paris and the Duc to Chartres.

General McClellan spent several hourseths afternoon in General Porter's division. The visit being at the time most of the brigades were going through their daily drill, he was received with the usual military honors. While a Miner's Hill a splendid photograph picture was taken

of the General and party jointly with General Morrell and staff. Subsequently, as the Fourth Michigan regiment were going through their dress parade, the General noted their skillful precision of movement, and, calling out Col.

Woodbury, personally complimented him.

THE ACCIDENT TO GENERAL SUMNER. General Summer is much easier than at any time since his accident. His aids—Captain Taylor, Sixth cavalry, In accident. It is also capital Taylor, State leavary, Lieutenant Lawrence Kip, Third artillery, and Lieutenant S. Summer—Fifth cavalry, have been unremitting in their attentions to him, and sat up with him all the first night following the disaster. On the following day his wife arrived, who has not left him since. To such an active man his confinemed; is very galling. And what troubles the Old Here as much as his bruises is, that he should have been thrown from his horse. The horse stepped in a deep hole, and, in recovering himself, jumped suddenly to one side, throwing the General and stepping on him. Fortunately no bones were broken, but he was fearfully

General Summer has a fine division, and is constantly employed with his aids in tooking after it.

CAPTURE OF A REBEL MAIL. Lieutenant J. C. Withams, of the brig Perry, captured a rebel mail on a ducking boat, and arrested the owners of the boat. The mail contained communications from

THE BALL'S BLUFF BATTLE. In response to a resolution of the House, calling for in-formation in regard to the disastrous movement of our troops at Ball's Bluff, the Secretary of War has submitted the report of the Adjutant General, stating that the General in-Chief of the army is of opinion an inquiry on the subject would at this time be injurious to the public ser

It is reported by the Lealie, which returned from the flotilla this morning, that the new rebei batteries are between Frostone Point and Shipping Point, on Timber branch. Their object is to command the entrance of Mataweman creek, to cut off our transports which supply General Sickles' brigade. Ton or twelve vessels ran the blockade, and were met by the Leslie on her downward

THE TRANSMISSION OF SOLDIERS' PAY TO THEIR

PAMILIES.

In response to a resolution of the Senate the Secretary of War has transmitted the following report of the Pay-master General as to whether any aid, and what aid, is rendered by the pay department of the army to enable volunteers to transmit home any part of their pay, and what additional facilities may be extended for that ob,

PAYMANTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, Dec. 16, 1861.

SIR-I have the honer to return herewith the resolution of the femate of the United States of December 11, 1861, requesting the Secretary of War to communicate to the Sonate whether any and what aid is rendered by the pay department of the army to enable voluntoers to transmit home any part of their pay, and what additional facilities may be extended for that object, and to report thereon as follows:—

transmit home any part of their pay, and what additional facilities may be extended for that object, and to report thereon as follows:

By a General Order from the War Department, Adjutant Generals Offices, dated September 19, 1861, a system of allotment rolls was adopted, to be used by the volunteers for the purpose of transmitting portions of their pay to their homes, free or expense to thom. This system, if faithfully carried out, will, it is believed, afford all the facilities required.

A copy of the General Order, No. 81, current series, is herewith inclosed, exhibiting the plan adopted. There is one point, however, to which attention is respectfully salled. Under existing laws a sutter has a prior claim on the pay of the man before the allotment, and this often sweeps of a portion or all of the share allowed by the soldier for the use of his family. A soldier nakes his allotment on entering the service, and betore contracting a debt to the sular; and the money to arisigned ought not to be allowed to be diverted from the eminently proper purpose for which it is intended, to satisfy the claims of sulfers, the cally when these latter are so noteiously exorbitant and unjust.

Very respectfully, your obedient acryant,

BENJ, F. LARNED,

Paymaster General United States Army.

Paymaster General United States Army.
To Hon. Simon Cameron, Secretary of War. GENERAL LANE'S APPOINTMENT.

General James H. Lane, of Kansas, has been tendered the position of Brigadier General by the President. He will accept it as soon as he can lay before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate additional evidence vindicating his right to a seat in that body, which is now contested

THE TRIAL OF COL. HALSTEAD. trial of Colonel Halstoad, of the First New Jersey eavalry, in court martial to-day, was postponed on account of the absence of government witnesses.

DEFEAT OF THE HOMESTEAD BILL. deleated to-day on the motion of Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, in his anxiety to save his own bill donating public lands to the several States and Persionies for the establishmechanic arts. Although not directly antagonistic, the passage of one of these bills would defeat the other, and under existing circumstances both may be regarded as killed. That of Mr. Potter was designed to carry out one of the most prominent features of the Cheago platform. In the bill, as reported, there are some new features. It extends the benefit of the Home-stead bil to all who perform mistary service of Airfi last, or any act of Congress during the existing war, and also to all milita volunteers or State troops of any State or Territory performing serperiod, and to teamsters and wagon masters employed under competent authority in military service, and gives the same privilege, in lieu of prize money and extra al. lowances, to all persons performing service in the Navy of the United States during the war or any foreign war occurring within the period. In lieu of bounty lands gives to three months volunteers of all grades the free homest ad and thirty dollars in money, and to six months voluntoers one hundred dollars in addition to the home-stead. In all cases being held as a prisoner of war to be reckoned as actual service.

THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE PENSION BULL. The bill reported from the House Committee of Ways and Means for the payment of invalid and other persions of the United States, for the year ending June 30, 1861 appropriates one million one hundred and fifty the six hundred dollars for that purpose,

THE PAY OF THE FORCES OF THE WESTERN MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

The bill reported by Colonel Blair from the House Military

tary Committee, to secure officers and men actually em-ployed in the Western Military Department or Department of Missouri, their pay, bounty and pensions, is in-tended to authorize the payment to those who were in service under General Fremont, but were not recognized by the War Department as in any way in the service of

THE CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC APPROPRIATION BULL The bill reported by the Ways and Means Committee for consular and diplomatic expenses for the year ending June 30, 1863, and additional appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1862, appropriates \$1,154,377 92.

THE CLAIM OF MR. FOSTER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO A SEAT IN THE HOUSE. The rejection of the claim of Mr. Foster, of North Carolina, to a seat in the House of Representatives is re-garded as a just rebuke of an attempt to gain a seat in that body by taking advantage of the peculiar condition of public affairs without having been chosen by any num ber of citizens anywhere to represent them.

THE AFFAIR OF MESSRS. FOURE AND CONWAY...A
FIGHT EXPECTED.
The affair of Messrs. Fouke and Conway is still unad justed. It is bolieved now that it will cuiminate in a street light whenever they meet.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE TREASURY CLERKS The Treesury Department will pay the clerks before Christmas so much of their balances as may be due in advance of the customary pay day at the end of the

DEPARTURE OF MR. VAN WYOR Representative Van Wyck, who returned yesterday from a visit home on account of sickness in his family, has again left the city by reason of the continued illness

A letter received here to-day from a mercantile firm in Liverpool, which had made a large shipment of arms

states, that "all the arms have been taken from the ves-sels. Sixty thousand that were to be shipped have been retained. No more will be permitted to be shipped. SERENADE TO MR. WRIGHT.

A band of one of the Pennsylvania regiments aerenaded Mr. Wright, representative in Congress from the Scranton district of that State, to-night. About fifty people, busides members of the band, were present. Mr. Wright made a speech, informing his hearers that the war is for the perpetuation of slavery, and not for its abolition; that all the rest of the world except Russia and the United States is of no sort of consequence; that France, England, Spain, Prussia, &c., can be easily whipped, and that the

The Government Contract Investigating Committee

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

Mr. TEN EVCE, (rep.) of N. J., presented a petition for the establishment of an armory on Burlington Island

Mr. TRUMBULL, (rep.) of Ill., presented a petition of several hundred citizens of St. Louis, laborers on the pub-lic works, asking that the several amounts due them be

Mr. Doolirrin, (rep.) of Wis., presented several petitions for the emancipation of slaves.

Mr. Sumsen, (rep.) of Mass., presented a petition from the citizens of Vermont for the repeal of the Fugitive

Mr. Samssuny, (opp.) of Del., offered a resolution ask-ing the Secretary of War to furnish the Senate a copy of the proclamation of General Phelps to the loyal citizens of the Southwest, and by what authority it was made. Laid over.

Mr. Tax Eyes introduced a bill for the establishment n Armory on Burlington Heights.

COLLECTION OF DIRECT TAXES IN INSURRECTIONARY DISTR rect taxes in the insurrectionary districts. It provides for taking the land in such districts to pay the direct tax; that the President shall, before the 22d of February next, make a proclamation specifying what districts are in such insurrection, the owners to have power of re-

demption.

EXPUTSION OF THE REMRI SENATOR FOLK.

Mr. SCHNER Offered a resolution that Truston Polk, now a traitor to the United States, be expelled from the Senate. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF ARM INCEPTALS.

Mr. WILSON, (rap.) of Mass., offered a resolution that the Military Committee be instructed to inquire if any legislation was necessary to correct the evils which now gxist in the condition and management of the military hospitals. Agreed to.

Mr. Fosier in the containts and management of the minoral hospitals. Agreed to.

Mr. Fosier, (rep.) of Conn., moved to take up the case of the contested seat of the Senator from Kansas (Gen. Lane). The report of the Judiciary is that Mr. Stanton is on-life to the seat.

Mr. Lane, of Kansas, asked that a memorial be read, also an order from the War Department. He said the committee could not have had before them a correct copy of the paper called an appointment.

Mr. SCHENER, of Mass., said that the case should be recommitted to the committee.

Mr. COLLANGE, (rep.) of Vt., moved that the subject be recommitted to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. FOSIER thought that there were no new facts in the memorial to go to the committee.

After some further discussion the subject was recommitted.

THE CROSES BRUED TO MAJOR GENERAL HALLECK.

Communication was received from the War Depart
Int transmitting the orders given Major General Hal

up.

Mr. Sumer said be had various letters stating abuses of this kind in the army. Brigadier General Stone was adding to his achievement at Ball's Bluff by busying himself in surrendering up slaves. He (General Stone) had made Massachusetts had slready complained of this. This outrage must be stopped.

Mr. Cowan (rep.) of Pa., thought that the one great trouble was that every general thought he must make up his mind as to what he will do in a contingency which never arises. He (Mr. Cowan) thought that generals had no right to settle the question as to who was the owner of a slave, and that the whole matter should be left to the Executive, and need not be put on the statute book. The fact that the army was in the robol States was sufficient. He thought that generals must take the natural result which comes with each fact without special legislation, for smancipation is confiscation. They had nothing to do with these questions in the Sonate, which were only keeping up angry agitation.

Mr. Sermec's resolution was then agreed to Passacietian effects by Mr. Larman (Rispo) of Calendaria and the properties of the Research of Calendary Larman (Rispo) of Calendary and the properties of the property of the properties of the content of the properties of the properties of the content of the properties of the proper

Mr. Sember's resolution was then agreed to.

A re-olution offered by Mr. LATHAM, (Dalon) of Cal., asking the Secretary of State why passports are required from passengers going from New York to San Francisco was taken up.

Mr. LATHAM continued—Passports should not be required from passengers going from one loyal State to another, like California. Such passengers were obliged to pay an enormous tax which goes into private hands.

Mr. Latham's resolution was adopted.

After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1861.
THE CLAIM OF MR. POSTER TO REPERSENT NORTH CAROLINA. Mr. Dawes, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee on Elections, reported that Charles Henry Foster is not en-

Second Congressional district of North Carolina.

Mr. Davgs said that the Committee had pursued the investigation so far as to be entirely satisfied that the claim was founded in imposition, and so well satisfied of abandoned the claim.

PRINTING THE CONTRACTS INVESTIGATING COMMITTER'S REPORT

MIT. WALLON, (rep.) of VI., from the Committee on Printing, reported a resolution, which was adopted, to print 5,000 copies of the report of the special committee to inquire into the army contracts, &c., with the avidence, and 10,000 copies without the evidence.

The House then resumed the consideration of the bill to secure home-toads to actual settlers, heads of families orthose who have attained the age of twenty-one years, and are citizens of the United States, or have filed an intention to become arch. The provisions of the bill are extraoled. to become such. The provisions of the bill are extended to all who have performed service in suppressing the rebellion. In lieu of bounty lands the three months volunteers are to receive thirty deliars in addition to the right of a humsteed, and all who have served six months one hundred deliars.

The further consideration of the bill was nostponed till the first Monday in February—88 against 50.

INDERMITY TO LIEUTREANT CRAYEN.

Mr. STREAM, of N. J., presented a memorial from Lieutenant Crayen for indemnity for loss while surveying the 18thons of Darien.

Mr. Street, or indomestry for loss while surveying the Ishmus of Darien.

The Civil Appropriation Bill.

Mr. Streets, (rep.) of Pa., from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the Civil Appropriation bill.

Also for the appropriation of \$1,000,000 for gunboats in the Western waters, in addition to the former sum.

The latter bill was passed.

The House then would into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. Washburne in the chair, and took up the bill for the payment of invalid and other pensions.

the State of the Union, Mr. Washburne in the chair, and took up the bill for the psyment of invalid and other pensions.

The bill was amended on motion of Mr. Blair, (rep.) of Mo., that no pension should be ordered under this act to any person engaged in the resemble of the state of the pension of Mr. Blair, (rep.) of Mo., that no pension should be ordered under this act to any person engaged in the resemble.

The bill was subsequently passed.

Eav or General subsequently passed.

The House passed the bill authorizing and requiring the Secretary of War to pay to the officers and men herotofor actually amployed or mustered into service in the Western or Microuri Milliary Department the pay and bounty as in regular enlistments. This covers the forces under General Fremont and other commanding Generals.

Anothrox of stitushing.

Mr. Sirrer offered a resolution, which was adopted, that the Select Committee on Alleged Contract Abuses be requirements and protection of the soldiers.

ARCHITES OF THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Coleax, called the attention to a communication from the Post Office Department, stating that it has been ascertained that members of Congress frequently give envelopes to cover matter unknown to them—that franked letter envelops without address are being circulated among the camps and sold by sutters affrom one to two cents a piece—that franked envelopes are sont to merchants in various parts of the country to cever their own correspondence in return, and that franks of members of Congress are forged.

Mr. Coleax hoped that the simple statement of facts Congress are forged.

Mr. Cotzax hoped that the simple statement of facts would correct the abuses without further legislation.

Adjourned.

The New England Festival.

The annual festival of the New Englanders, resident in this city, will take place at the Astor House on Monday next, the 23d inst. Governor Andrew, of Massachusetta; next, the 23d inst. Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts; Governor Sprague, of Rhode Island; Governor Buckingham, of Councetieut, and Governor Holbrock, of Vermont, have accepted the invitations tendered them. The Governors of the other two States—Maine and New Hampshire—knowing "the situation," are also expected to attend. Governor Morgan is an officer of the soctety, and will also be present. Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania; Rev. Dr. Adams, of this city; Rev. Dr. Storrs, of Brooklyn; John G. Saxe (the poet), of Vermont, and Hon Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee, will be present, along with many other celebrities, who have stanified their intention to mingle with the Pligrims on that occasiog. An invitation has also been tendered to Colonel Mulligan, the hero of Lexington, and his amiable wife, to participate in this annual gathering of the sons of New England.

LYN ACADEMY.-We have to call attention to a new feature n our theatrical advertisements, being no less than an announcement of the inauguratory dramatic performances to be given at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Mondsy next. The house has, it appears, been taken by Mr. Jarrett contingently, on the ratification by the full Beard of Directors of his understanding with the Executive Committee. Mr. Jarrett proposes to give a series of hish class dramatic performances in tragedy and comedy, and has accured the services of the best combination of artists for both that can be found at the present time. The company will be composed of Mrs. James W. Wallack, Mrs. Julia Bennett Barrow and Mesars. E. L. Davenport, J. W. Wallack, Jr., Henry Placide, Thomas Placide, Mark Smith, George H. Andrews and other well known actors. On Monday will be given the tragedy of "Hamilet," and on Tuesday the "School for Scandar." We trust that the dramatic censors of the Board of Direction will be mercital to the text of pieces which have run the gauntlet of some few generations of prudish critics, announcement of the inauguratory dramatic performances

#### IMPORTANT FROM KENTUCKY.

Gen. Buell's Report of the Recent Fight-Position of the Hostile Forces-A Bril-

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1861. Gen. Bueil has telegraphed to headquarters the follow

Louisvals, December 18, 1861 To Majon General, McClettan — McCook's division is at Mumfordsville; Gen. Mitchell at Bacon's creek. Zollicoffer is either retreating across the Cumberland river or is preparing to do so at the ap-

proach of any superior force.

Gen. McCook reported that the rebels attacked my pickets in front of the railroad bridge at two o'clock to day. The picket consisted of four companies of the Third Indiana, Colonei Willich, under Lieutenant Colonel Ven Imblea. Their forces consisted of one regi-ment of Texan Rangers, two regiments of infantry, and one battery of six guns. Our loss was, Lieutenant Saxe and eight enlisted men killed and ten wounded. The rebel loss was thirty-three killed, including the Celonel of the Texan Rangers, and about fafty wounded. The rebels retreated ingloriously.

D. C. BULLL,
Brigadier General, &c.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 18, 1861.

The recent Mumfordsville engagement, considering the disproportion of numbers, proves the neest brilliant Union victory yet achieved. Four companies, of about 350 men, of Col. Wallach's regiment, led by the Lioutenant Colonel, drove back over 3,000 rebel cavairy, arti-lery and infantry. They were first attacked by a regi-ment of Texas cavairy, whom they repulsed and followed, when they were drawn into ambush and fired at from all sides by rebel infantry. The Unionists returned the fire vigorously, and stood their ground until the rebels fell back, leaving all their dead and most of their wounded on the field. No reinforcements reached Van after the engagement was over. Howe's Louisville battery Supported the Unionists from the north side of Green river, firing at very long range from rifled cannon. Four other companies were on the south side of the river, but engaged as pickets a mile and a quarter distant from the

Among the Unionists killed were Lieutonant Sachs, of was finally killed, receiving nine bullets from the robels. Also among the killed were Henry Joser, Richard Wherf Frederick Shoemaker, John Shambrose and Peter Smith all of Cincinnati. Smith's remains go to Cincinnati to

Col. Terry. The number of wounded is unknown. It is supposed to be large. The federal forces buried their lead. Fourteen of the rebels' horses were found dead on

the field, and three rebels were taken prisoners.

Parties just arrived from the scene of the fight report that yesterday and to-day sixty-nine dead and wounded rebels were found in the bushes. The Union loss was wise wounded-of these mortally four have since died.

The Union forces on the south side of Green river have een considerably augmented, but the report of a genera crossing southward yesterday is untrue, and would not force is engaged, is reconstructed.

ion to inter their alleged unburied dead. The Somerset Postmaster writes, 17th, that Zollicoffer with 7,000 men, had crossed the Cumberland river and were entrenching.

The Thirty-first Ohio and Second East Tennessee regi

nents had arrived there, making a force about equal to

#### IMPORTANT FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

in Force-Troops Sent to Oppose the Enemy-An Engagement Reported, &c. FREDERICK, Dec. 18, 1861.

A gentleman who arrived from Williams, 'rt late last night reports that Jackson's brigade has been largely in crussel, and is supposed to amount to 9,000 men, at Fall ing Waters.

At pine P. M., ffty-one wagons belonging to the rebels

were backed down to the shore, and a beat from each quietly launched into the river. Two of the boats, which ere of large size, were for the transportation of Jack At this juncture our informant left for General Banks

Our informant thinks the object of Jackson is to ero over, make a dash on Williamsport, and scenre the sters and arms there. He informed Colonel Leonard of all that was transpiring, and thinks the latter has taken full precautions to prevent it, by removing the stores. Ac , to a more secure place, and that he also took steps to centrate all his available force to prevent the passage

Our informant passed the Fifth Connecticut regiment en route for Williamsport, two miles northwest or Boons borough, sixteen miles from Williamsport, and Best's but ut Fifth.

Later intelligence states that the battery reached Wil iamsport at six A. M. this morning, having passed the Connecticut regiment on the route. Our informant met al Dam No. 4, yesterday, a deserter

from Jackson's brigade, a resident of Rappahannock county, Virginia, who said Jackson had not less that 15,060 men, but this is considered an exageration by our nformant, who had for an hour a good view of Jackson'

The deserter stated that Jackson's regulars, including a Georgia regiment which had just joined him, were dete mined to go to the "devil" with their commander, bu the militia were equally as obstinate in refusing to cresthe river.

Jackson was determined to cross the Potomac the morning. On receipt of this intelligence by Gen. Banks, order were issued to the Third brigade, Gen. Williams com

manding, to be prepared to perform a forced march to Williamsport at a moment's notice; but up to ten o clock this morning the brigade had not moved, but was in readiness to leave at any time.

It is reported on the street that one regiment only

about to move, which indicates that Jackson has not sufficient strength to execute his threat, but has probably iried the experiment and met with a check.

Firing was heard at six o'clock, the hour at which dest's battery had probably reached the river opposite

Falling Waters. Passengers by Hagerstown stage report rumors of firing at Falling Waters this morning, and a thousand other reports, but nothing authentic. There was con siderable excitement there. The stage left ot six A. M.

Partial Destruction by Fire of the Town of Platte City, Mo. LEAVENWORTH, Dec. 17, 1861

A portion of the town of Platte City, Mo., including the Court House and Post Office, were destroyed by fire las night. It was set on fire about one o'clock by some rebels, but suppressed by some troops under Colone Morgan. At four o'clock it was again successfully fired The county records were saved, but the contents and of fice were destroyed. Many arrests were made, including some of S. J. Gordon's guerrilla band and one of Price'

Return of Ex-President Miramon to thi City.
The ex-President of Mexico, General Miguel Miran

arrived in this city yesterday. He is accompanied by his wife and five gentlemen of his staff. The distinguisher party arrived in this country from Europe by the steam ship Europa, and came on to this city by the early trai yesterday morning. They are occupying apartments at the Metropolitan Hotel, where they will, it is expected, remain for about two weeks. The return of ex-President Miramon to this city will doubtless create much surpris among all parties. It was at one time reported, and at the same time very generally believed, that he would leave Europe on board one of the war vessels composing the Anglo-Spanish expedition, which is now on its way to What reasons decided him to return Mexico. from the general's well known ability and far se sagnetty we are convinced that his movements are all the result of mature deliberation. He will sail for Havans about two weeks, and thence proceed to join the expe dision off Vera Cruz. The following are the names of the gentlemen of his staff who accompanied him from Eu

Colonel Carlos Miramot Colonel De Manuel Gual. Colonel Garcia. Dr. Daniel Vallatto, bis private secretary,

The Famine in Ireland. Upon the arrival of the news of the famine in Ireland the Mozart regiment of this city, with a noble generosity well worthy of imitation by all, at once started a sub scription roll, which was signed by nearly every member of the regiment, although quite a number are not of Irisch birth, each one giving whatever he could afford. We are glad to see a move of this kind, and it should be imitated by all of by all of the regiments, without regard to nationality.

If each one only contributed a small sum, when joined together it would make a very handsome amount and be the means of relieving much want.

WINTER GARDAN. -This evening the new piece of "The has been for some time in preparation, and for which some very beautiful scenery is said to have been painted, will be produced at this establishment. Mrs. Williams plays a leading part in the piece, and Mr. Williams will present himself in the double role of author and actor. Colonel Mulligan and his lady have accepted an invitation to be present, and will be accompanied by the Committee

tade was performed in front of the residence of Major Nevers, of the Seventh regiment, New York State Militia (National Guard), by the full band of that regiment, in honor of the recent promotion of that officer to his pre-sent rank. Major Nevers was formerly Captain of Company C, and was promoted to the majority in the place of Alexander Thaler, also promoted to the Lieuwouant Colonelcy of the Sixty-fifth New York Volunteers (Solonel Cochrane's Chassours). Major Nevers' residence is on Twenty-third street, between Seventh and Eighth ave-

Anderson, brother of General Anderson, whose woude ful escape from Texas we noticed some time since, will deliver an address at the Cooper Institute on Saturday duced a number of gentlemen to ask him to relate his ad ventures in the form of a lecture, which he has kindly consented to do. No charge will be made for admission

Ninto's Garden .- Mr. Uliman opens this theatre of Monday next for a grand farewell series of the Herman performances. The house has been entirely remodelled and redecorated by its proprietor since the spring.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, -A new drams, in three acts, en night. The scenery is said to be very beautiful, and the music composed for it by Mr. Stoepel will, it is said, also he found to have its attractions.

MR. GUSTAVUS GRARY'S CONCERT .- To-night the grand annual concert of this gentleman comes off at Irving Hall. The programme is a most attractive on-

## IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Detention of the Africa and the Mails for Europe Till This Afternoon, &c.

The Conard steamship Africa, Captain Shannon, ha been detained by order of the British Minister at Washington and will not leave this port till this (Thurs day) afternoon, for Liverpool.

The regular mails for Europe will close in this city at half-past eleven o'clock this morning; but a supplement tary mail will be made up to day.

The EUROPEAN HOTTON OF THE HERALD to be published this morning, will contain details of the effect of the warlike news from England; Full particulars of the Terrific Conflagration at Charleston, S. C. on the 11th and 12th instal, by which Banks, Hotels, Churches, Theatres, Stores, Saloons, Warehouses, Carmon and Shell Factories and Dwelling Houses amounting in value to Seven Millions of Dollars, were laid in rules, illus trated with a Map of the City, showing the Burned District, and a List of the Names of the Sufferers, as far as it has been possible to ascertain tham. It will also contain a variety of interesting matter received by mail and telegraph during the previous week and up

Sampson Low, Son & Co., No. 47 Ludgate Hill, London, England, will receive advertisements and subscriptions for the HERALD.

Single copies, in wrappers, six cents.

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KENTECRY, Chass 652—December 18, 1851.

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At Jeffers', 573 Brondway, is the only place in New York where Ladies' Balmera Boots can be had from \$2 to \$3, that will give perfect satisfaction.

Pilgrims of Fashion .- A New Novel, by Cornwallis, will be published immediately by HARPER & BROTHERS, Photograph Albums.—A Full Assortment or sale by FREEMAN, RYER & CO., Importure, 15 Majden ane, and at 391 Broadway.

A Pure Tobacco.—Yellow Bank Tobacco.—Goodwin's Pure Yellow Bank Tobacco, free from all impurities. for sale by all lobacco and segar dealers, and a wholesale by E. GOODWIN & BROTHER, 29 Waterstreet. Ladies Beautified .- Phalon & Son's Batchelor's Hair Dye-The Best in the

Cristadoro's Hair Dye, Wigs and Tou-Havry's Tricopherous is the Best and cheapestarticle for dressing, beautifying, curting, cleaning, preserving and restoring the hair. Ladies, try ii. Sold by all dringsiss.

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Gourand's Italian Medicated Lily White, &c., at the old depot, 67 Walker street, ne way. Trusses .- Mursh & Co.'s Radical Cor-Trusses, Shoulder Braces and Dr. Wadsworth's Uterine valor—a superior article. No. 2 Yesey street, Astor ito opposite the church.

Croup! Croup!!
Immediately cured by Dr. FOWAS Venetian Liniment Only twenty-live cents. Sold by all-druggists. Prizes Cushed in all Legalized Lotte-

Cash Paid for Postage Stamps, by ROBERTSON & CO., 82 and 84 Nassau street, 100 as Nos. 7 and 9. The President's Message .- All agree that Pres dent Lincoln's Message is the most sensible documents that Knox's winter style of Fair is the nested from the White House for a long that that Knox's winter style of Fair is the nestest, in becoming and most fashtomable ever introduced. Knox is also a splendid lot of first quality Buffalo Robes at his sto 212 Broadway.

Skating Hoods for Ladies, at White's, the Batter, 216 Broadway. Also, SKATING CAPS AND GLOVES for men and boys. Hill's Hair Dye, 50 Comts, Black or gown; bestin use. Depot No. I Barday street and sold by

Shoan.—On Wednesday, December 18, Manuaerr Ra-cher, Smar, youngest and beloved daughter of Thomas and Morgaret Sloan, aged 13 months and 8 days.

For other Marriages and Deaths, see fifth page MISCELLANEOUS.

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Merrie Christmas and A Happy New Year, PETER TIERS & CO., Importers of French, English and German FANCY GOODS AND TOYS, 45 Maiden lane, N. Y.

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Useful and ornamental Terra Cotia and Lava Warea, the support of the time see. Panny Articles and Toylong State and the White tiles are Panny Articles and Toylong State and Love PRIOES BY IMPORTED AND FOR SALE AT LOW PRIOES BY IMPORTED AND FOR SALE AT LOW PRIOES AND FOR SALE AT LOW PRIOR AND FOR SALE AND FOR SALE AT LOW PRIOR AND FOR SALE AND FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS.
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